

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.21 US \$1.75
FEB. CAN \$1.95

KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



2%
10/23/00
3/10/01
6/01/00
01...2103

2%
10/23/00
3/10/01
6/01/00
01...2103

DIRECT EDITION 021111>
7 62816 46971 5

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-ONE

The Forbidden Zone

Part Three of Three

Ken Penders

Writer

Manny Galan

Penciler

Andrew Pepoy

Inker

Barry Grossman

Colorist

Vickie Williams

Letterer

Justin Gabrie

Editor

Victor Gorelick

Managing Editor

Richard Goldwater

Editor-in-Chief

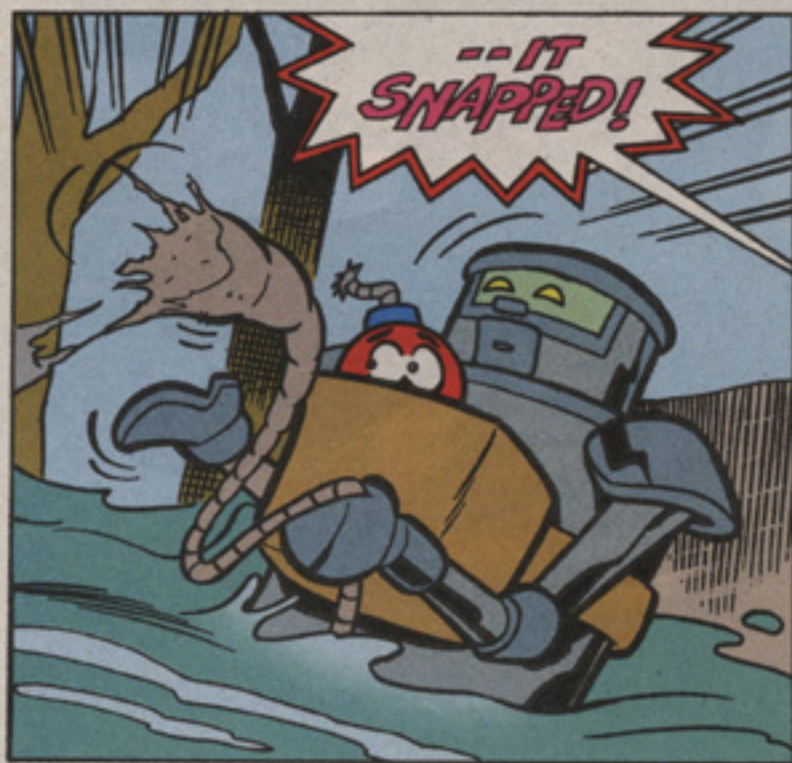
Knuckles The Echidna No. 21, Jan., 1999. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.75 in the U.S.; \$1.95 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. , \$21.00 for 12 issues; \$23.40 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Knuckles The Echidna and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of Sega. © 1998 Sega. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to Knuckles The Echidna , c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses,
the latest to continue the family heritage
and responsibility as
GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,
defender of all the forces of evil from the world
beyond as well as those who would
threaten within, he is none other than...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



As the blizzard-like snows turn into torrential rainfall on **The Floating Island**, fate has conspired to set various individuals on a collision course with destiny, linking up Locke with his former wife **Lara-Le**, Knuckles with his ancestors gathered in **Haven**, and **Commander Geoffrey St. John** with **Ellas**, who claims to be the son of **King Acorn**.

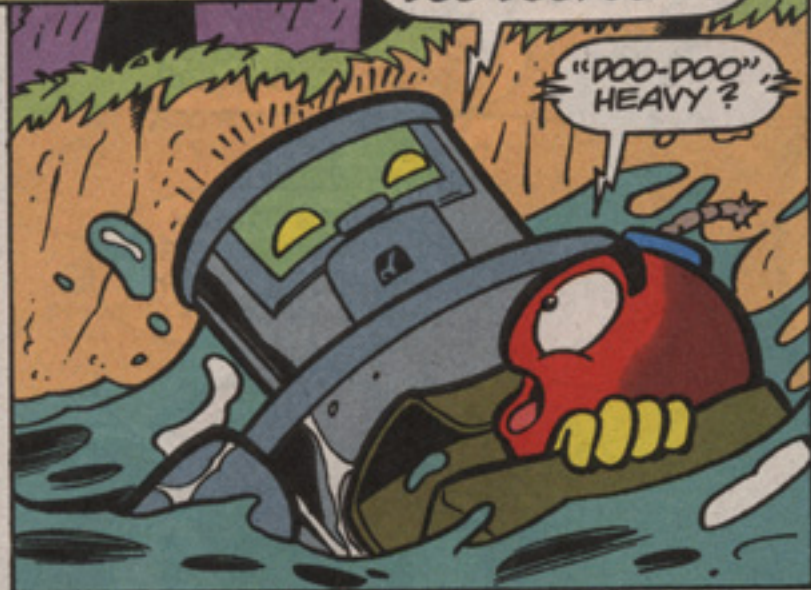
It is on the way to Haven that we find King Acorn's elite squad coping as best they can...



"THE BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN WILL NOT ABANDON THEM IN THEIR TIME OF NEED!"

ONCE MY SENSORS REGISTERED HIGH HUMIDITY WEATHER, I KNEW MY CIRCUITS WERE IN DEEP DOO-DOO, BOMB!

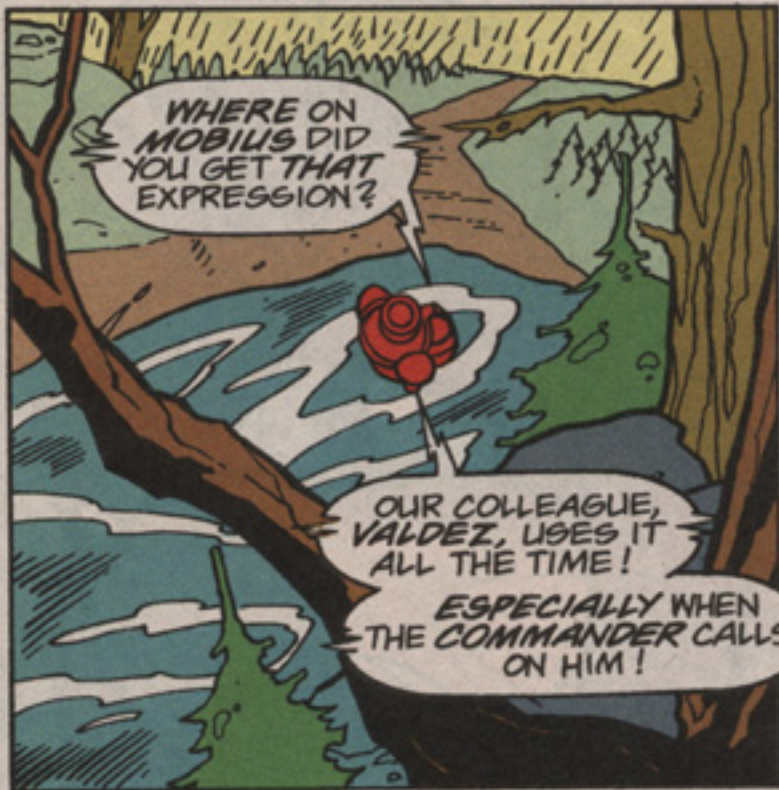
"DOO-DOO" HEAVY?



WHERE ON MOBIUS DID YOU GET THAT EXPRESSION?

OUR COLLEAGUE, VALDEZ, USES IT ALL THE TIME!

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE COMMANDER CALLS ON HIM!



WHAT'S OUR HEADING, HEAVY?

WE SEEM TO BE SWIRLING EVERY WHICH WAY!

MY SENSORS REGISTER THE FLOWING WATERS WILL END WITHIN ONE HUNDRED AND SIX METERS!

BEYOND THAT, I REGISTER NOTHING BUT GAS, PRIMARILY OF A NITROGEN-HYDROGEN-OXYGEN MIX!

I HATE TO SAY IT, HEAVY--



--BUT WE REALLY ARE IN DEEP DOO-DOO!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BOMB!



"ANTI-GRAVITATIONAL FORCES SEEM TO HAVE US IN THEIR PULL!"

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT, LOCKE--

--HOW YOU ARE ABLE TO WIELD SUCH AWESOME POWER--



"--AND STILL MAKE A MESS
OF YOUR MARRIAGE!"

"I'VE SPENT *MANY* A LONG NIGHT
WONDERING ABOUT THAT VERY
TOPIC, LARA--BACK IN *HAVEN*..."

THIS IS A
DISASTER!

KNUCKLES ISN'T READY
FOR HAVEN! HE'S TOO
UNDISCIPLINED!

MAYBE!
MAYBE NOT!

WHO'S TO SAY
OUR WAY HAS BEEN
THE RIGHT WAY
ALL ALONG?



YOU
WOULD
QUESTION
OUR
CUSTOMS
AND
TRADITIONS,
SABRE?

OUR
SYSTEM HAS
WORKED FOR
OVER FOUR
CENTURIES!

WE
SHOULD
SEND THE
LAD BACK--
BEFORE HE
COMES TO HIS
SENSES!

SABRE IS
CORRECT!

FATE
HAS TAKEN A
HAND IN THE
MATTER--

--SIGNALING THE
TIME HAS COME FOR
US TO RE-EVALUATE
OUR PRIORITIES!

THIS IS WORSE THAN A
DISASTER! ALL THE DECADES
OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION
WIPE OUT IN AN INSTANT
ONCE THAT RODENT OPENS
HIS MOUTH!

I'VE GOT TO DO
SOMETHING--

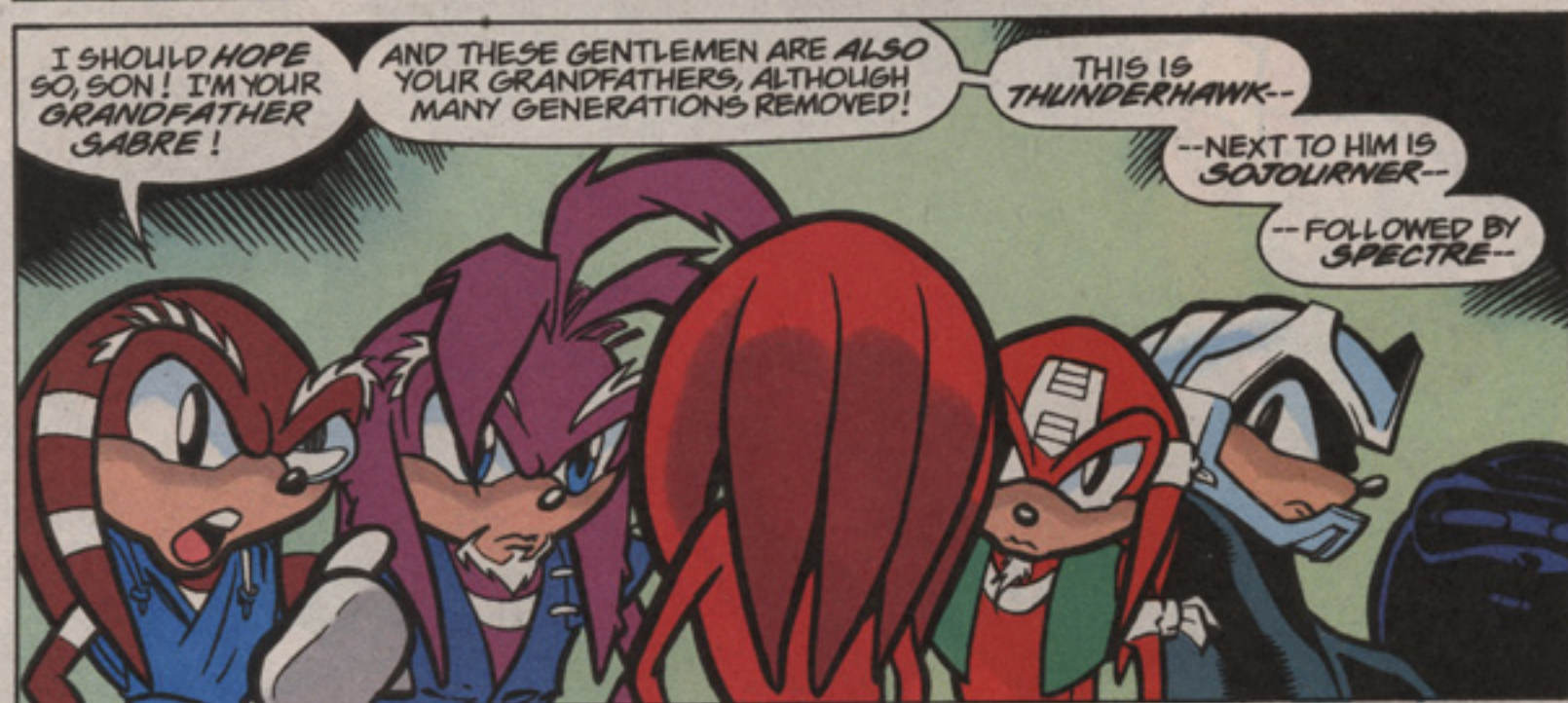
--BUT
WHAT?!!

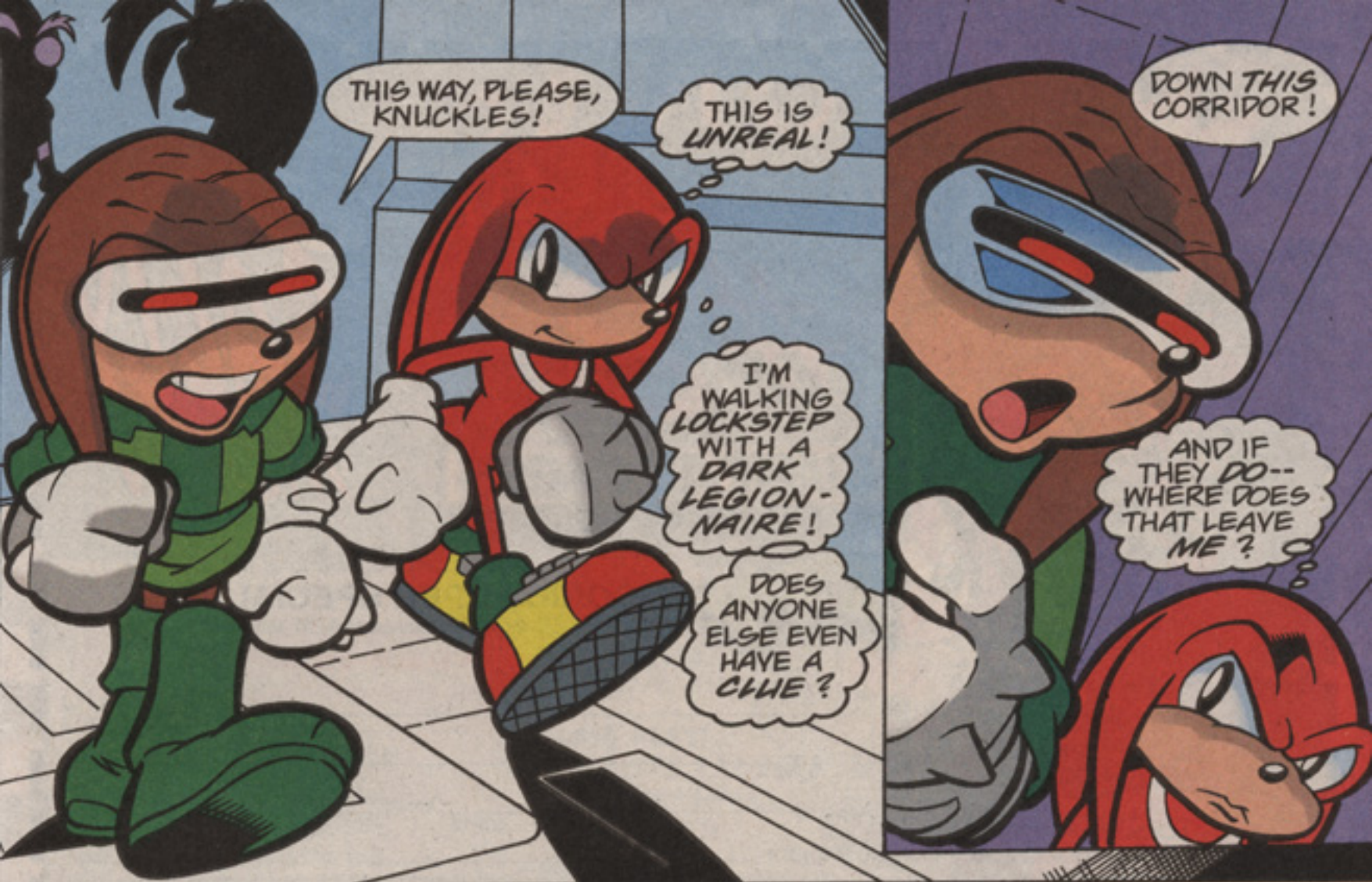
KNUCKLES,
MY BOY--

--I JUST
WANT YOU TO
KNOW--

--THINGS
AREN'T QUITE
WHAT YOU
THINK!

The Many Facets Of The TRUTH





THIS WAY, PLEASE, KNUCKLES!

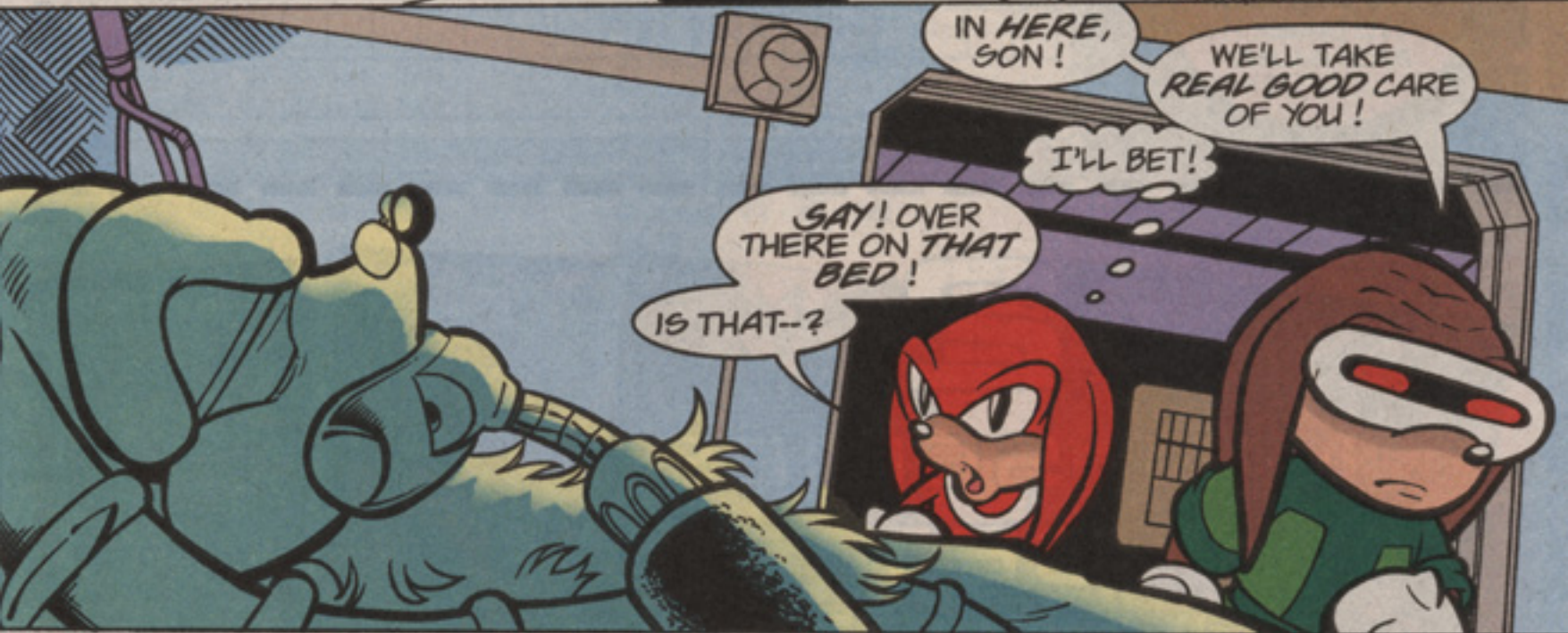
THIS IS UNREAL!

I'M WALKING LOCKSTEP WITH A DARK LEGIONNAIRE!

DOES ANYONE ELSE EVEN HAVE A CLUE?

DOWN THIS CORRIDOR!

AND IF THEY DO... WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?



IN HERE, SON!

WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU!

I'LL BET!

SAY! OVER THERE ON THAT BED!

IS THAT--?



GRANDFATHER HAWKING!

AND HE'S GOT ALL THESE TUBES AND WIRES CONNECTED TO HIM!

HE'S ON LIFE SUPPORT, KNUCKLES.



HE'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE ECHIDNAOPOLIS WAS RESTORED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND! *

DO YOU THINK HE'LL GET ANY BETTER?

*WAAAY BACK IN KNUCKLES #6. CHECK YOUR STORE'S BACK-ISSUE BINS IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY--JFG.



"THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN!"

I DON'T
WISH TO SOUND
UNGRATEFUL,
MATE--

--BUT
THAT WAS
SOME MAGIC
ACT!

JUST
WHO THE
BLAZES ARE
YOU?

HIS NAME IS
LOCKE,
COMMANDER--

-- AND HE'S
ONE OF THE
BROTHER-
HOOD I WAS
TELLING YOU
ABOUT!



I'LL TAKE
IT FROM HERE,
ELIAS!

I'M CERTAIN
THE COMMANDER IS
OVERFLOWING WITH
QUESTIONS!



YOU'VE A GIFT FOR
UNDERSTATEMENT,
MATE!

YOU'RE HERE
REGARDING THE CRAFT
THAT CARRIED ELIAS
HERE OVER SOME
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO,
AREN'T YOU?

PRETTY
MUCH!



FIRST, GIVE ME A MOMENT TO
SET THE AUTO-PILOT FOR
HAVEN, AND THEN WE'LL FILL IN
THE DETAILS, COMMANDER!



HOW COME YOU WEREN'T
THIS COMMUNICATIVE WHEN
WE WERE MARRIED?

SAVE IT FOR
LATER, LARA!

I WASN'T THERE
WHEN IT HAPPENED,
COMMANDER--

"--BUT FROM THE RECORDS WE HAVE ON HAND OF THE INCIDENT, QUEEN ALICIA'S CRAFT CRASH-LANDED ONTO THE ISLAND AFTER BEING FIRED UPON BY OVERLANDER AGGRESSORS..."

KRA AAASHH!

THIS POOR SOUL IS GONE!

SABRE! OVER HERE!

I'VE FOUND A SURVIVOR!

IT'S A BABY!

WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO THE MED-LABS FOR EXAMINATION!

SABRE! COME QUICK!

WHAT IS IT, GRANDFATHER THUNDERHAWK?

WE HAVE SOME COMPANY!

THE OVERLANDERS ARE LANDING!

"AS THE DESIGNATED TEAM LEADER OF THAT MISSION, MY FATHER MET WITH THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE OVERLANDERS..."

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO INSPECT THAT CRAFT!

AND WE ASK YOU RESPECT OUR NEUTRALITY IN REGARDS TO YOUR WAR WITH THE HOUSE OF ACORN!

BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU HERE!

EVERYONE ABOARD WAS KILLED!

"... SINCE THE BROTHERHOOD HAD NOT ONCE EVER INTERFERED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE OVERLANDERS, THEY TOOK SABRE AT HIS WORD AND DEPARTED!

"IT WAS A GOOD THING, TOO--"

"... AS GRANDFATHER SPECTRE DISCOVERED--

QUEEN ALICIA'S ALIVE!

THOUGH JUST BARELY!

SPECTRE, YOU AND SOJOURNER WILL TAKE THE BABY AND QUEEN ALICIA TO HAVEN--

WHILE THUNDERHAWK AND I CLEAN UP THE CRASH SITE!

SABRE KNEW THE OVERLANDERS WOULD BE WATCHING TO SEE IF WE WOULD TAKE SIDES IN THE WAR--

--SO HE SAW TO IT THAT NOT A TRACE OF THE INCIDENT COULD BE FOUND!

"THE WRECKAGE WAS DISPOSED OF, AND THE BODIES WERE BURIED..."

"...AND PRAYERS WERE SAID TO GUIDE THEM TO A NEW LIFE IN THE HEREAFTER AND BEYOND--

"AS FOR ELIAS AND QUEEN ALICIA..."

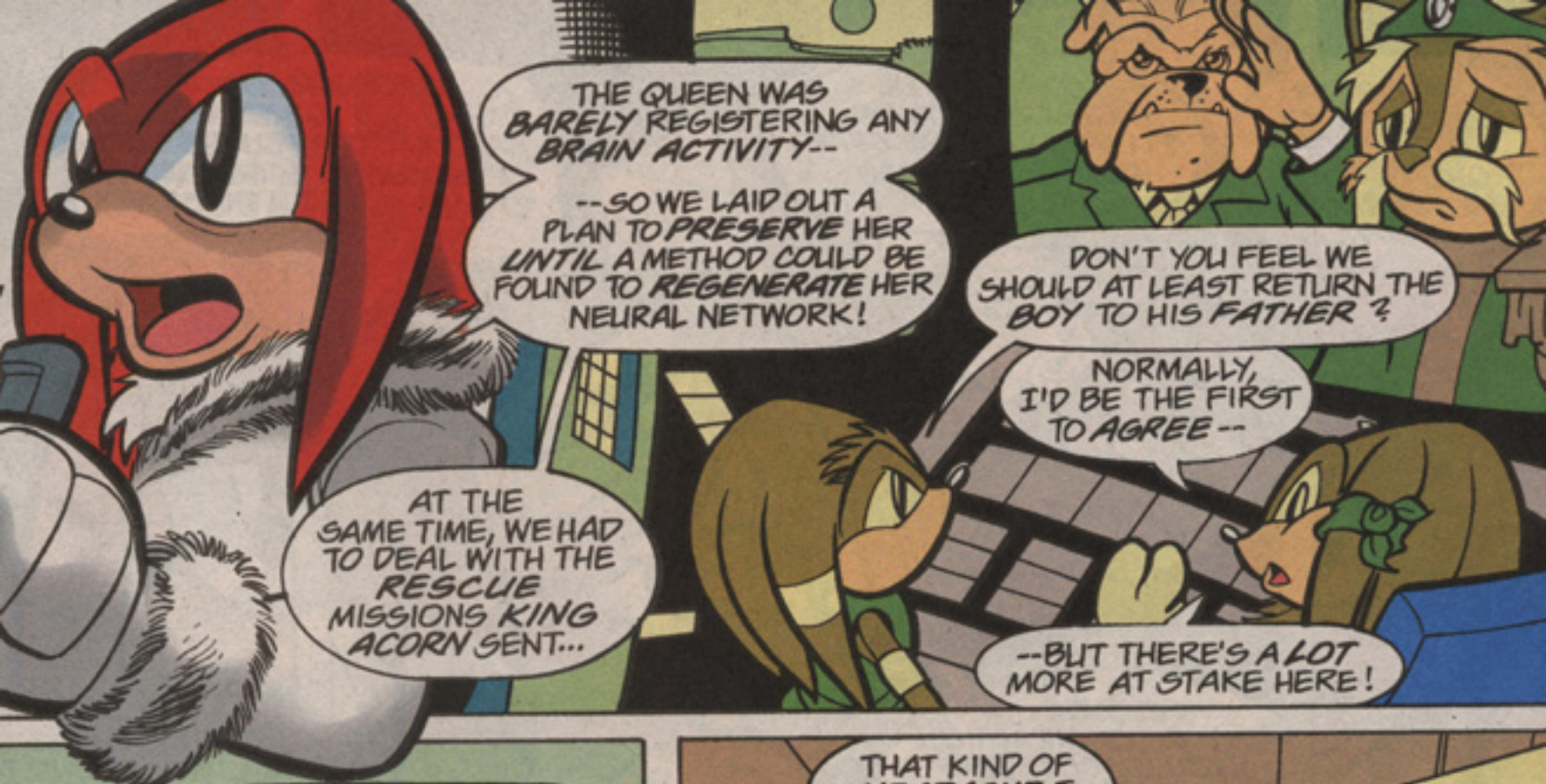
THE BOY IS RESTING COMFORTABLY IN HIS CRIB!

HE'S PERFECTLY FINE AND HAPPY!

THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR HIS MOTHER! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HER IN THIS STASIS TUBE--

--UNTIL WE'RE READY TO TRANSFER HER TO THE HYPER-CHAMBER FOR THE LONG TERM!

"LONG TERM?"



THE QUEEN WAS
BARELY REGISTERING ANY
BRAIN ACTIVITY--

--SO WE LAID OUT A
PLAN TO PRESERVE HER
UNTIL A METHOD COULD BE
FOUND TO REGENERATE HER
NEURAL NETWORK!

DON'T YOU FEEL WE
SHOULD AT LEAST RETURN THE
BOY TO HIS FATHER?

NORMALLY,
I'D BE THE FIRST
TO AGREE--

AT THE
SAME TIME, WE HAD
TO DEAL WITH THE
RESCUE
MISSIONS KING
ACORN SENT...

--BUT THERE'S A LOT
MORE AT STAKE HERE!



IF THE OVERLANDERS
DISCOVER WE WITHHELD THE FACTS
FROM THEM, THAT WILL FORCE THEIR
HAND INTO TAKING ACTION--

--UPON WHICH WE
WOULD BE FORCED INTO
TAKING ACTION, AND
GETTING DRAGGED INTO A
WAR WE HAVE NO INTEREST
IN WHATSOEVER!

YOU WANT
THAT?



THAT KIND OF
HEADACHE I
DON'T NEED!

HOW'S THE
BOY DOING, BY
THE WAY?

SEE FOR
YOURSELF!



THAT'S SOME
MODEL, ELIAS!

YOU REALLY
THINK SO?

I WISH
I KNEW WHAT
IT WAS!



YOUNG
ELIAS TURNED
OUT TO
BE QUITE A
PRODIGY!

UPON
REACHING HIS
TENTH
YEAR, HE WAS
ALLOWED TO
VENTURE FORTH
THROUGHOUT
THE
ISLAND!

SOMETHING
JUST DOESN'T
ADD UP HERE,
MATE!

HOW D'YA
ACCOUNT FOR
THE
COLONEL?

THAT WAS AN OVERSIGHT ON THE PART OF ONE OF THE BROTHERHOOD'S OWN!

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A SURVIVOR FLUNG FROM THE CRAFT DURING THE CRASH LANDING!

BROTHER TOBOR HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMEONE BEING THROWN TO SAFETY WHEN THE CRAFT WAS BREAKING UP!

THE OVER-LANDERS' REACTION UPON DISCOVERING HIM SHOULD BE QUITE INTERESTING!

LUCKILY THE COLONEL WAS FOUND KING ACORN'S RESCUE TEAM FIRST.

HOWEVER HE DID NOT RETURN WITH THE KING, EXILING HIMSELF TO THE ROYAL COMPOUND EVER SINCE.

HE IS--AND YOU MAY!

I'D LIKE TO QUESTION THIS TOBOR A BIT FURTHER, IF HE'S STILL AROUND!

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, WE'RE JUST A MINUTE OR SO FROM DOCKING!

ARE YOU NUTS?

YOU'RE HEADING INTO A WALL OF FLAME!

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

EVERYONE, RELAX--

"-- IT'S JUST A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION CONCEALING THE ENTRANCE!"

"WHAT OTHER
SURPRISES D'YA
HAVE UP YOUR
SLEEVE, MATE?"

NOW DON'T YOU
WORRY ONE BIT,
YOU DEAR BOY--
--THE DOCTOR
WILL TAKE CARE
OF YOU!

UGH!

I THINK--
I'LL--

--TAKE A PASS!

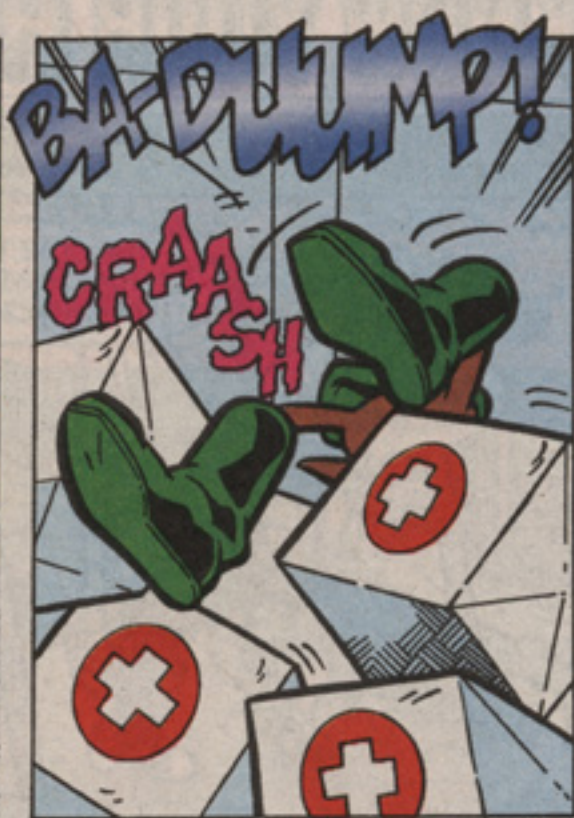
SMACKSHH!
KRA'AAKSHH!

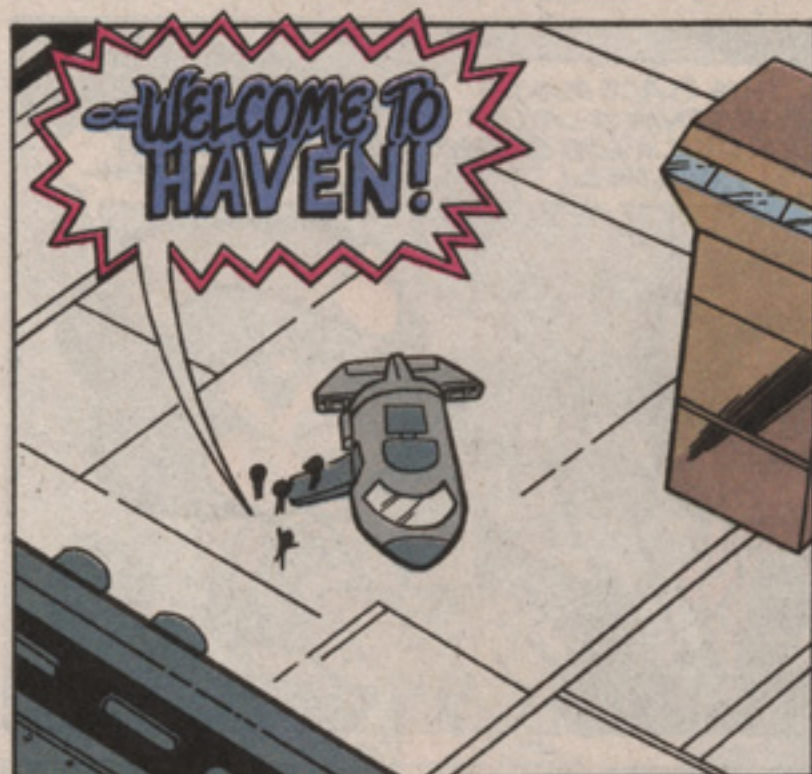
THAT'S QUITE
SOME BEDSIDE
MANNER YOU
GOT THERE--

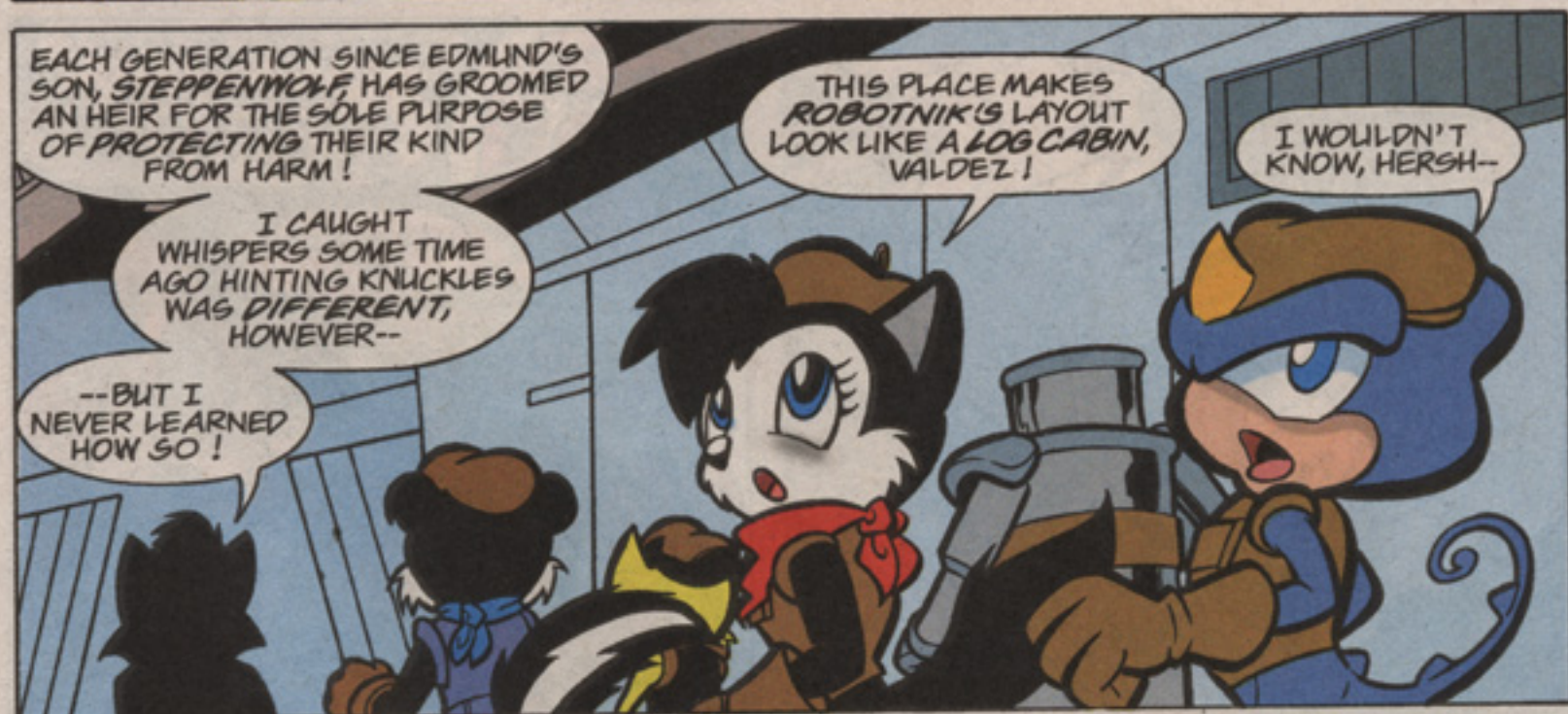
--MORITORI!

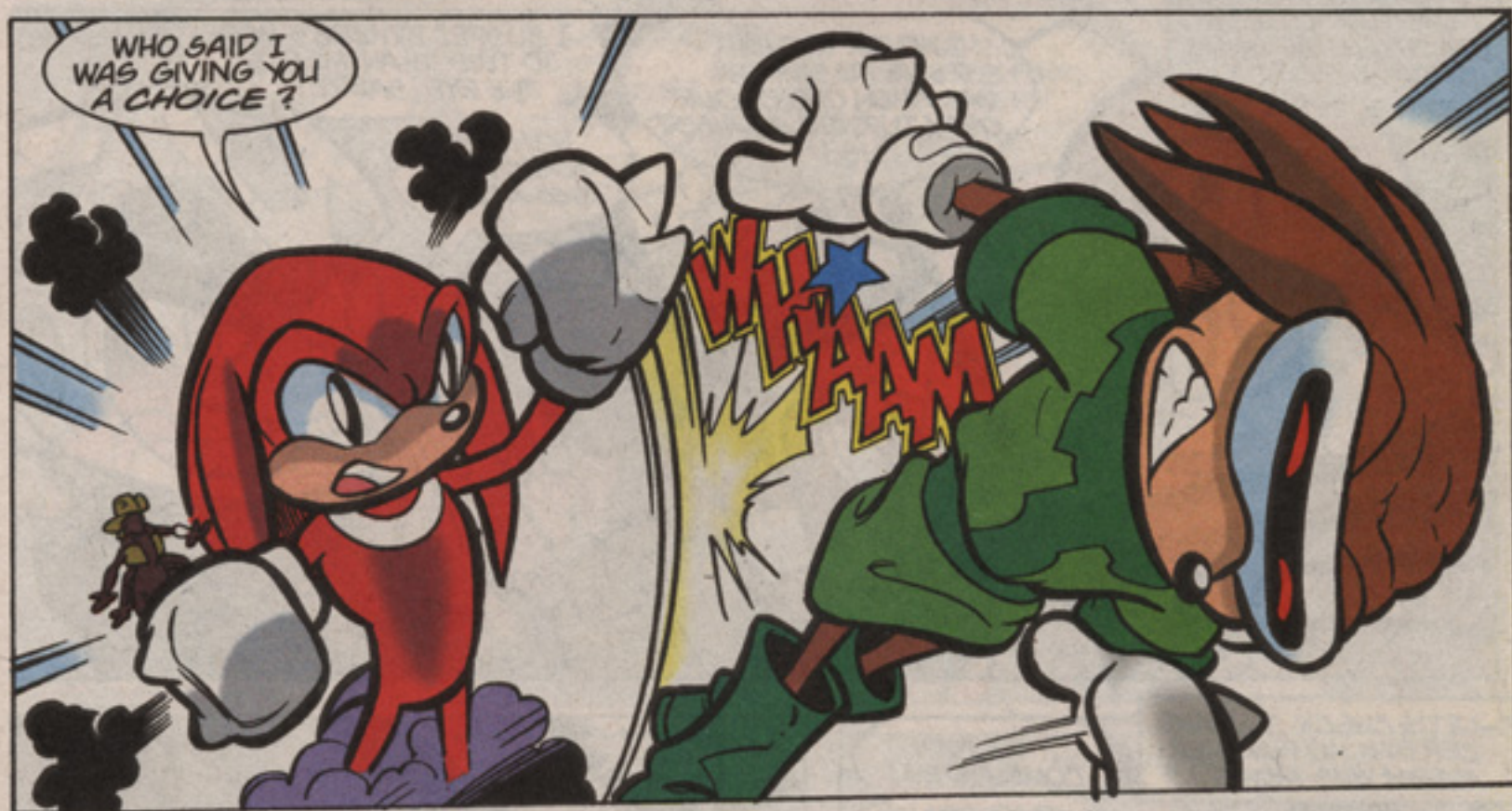
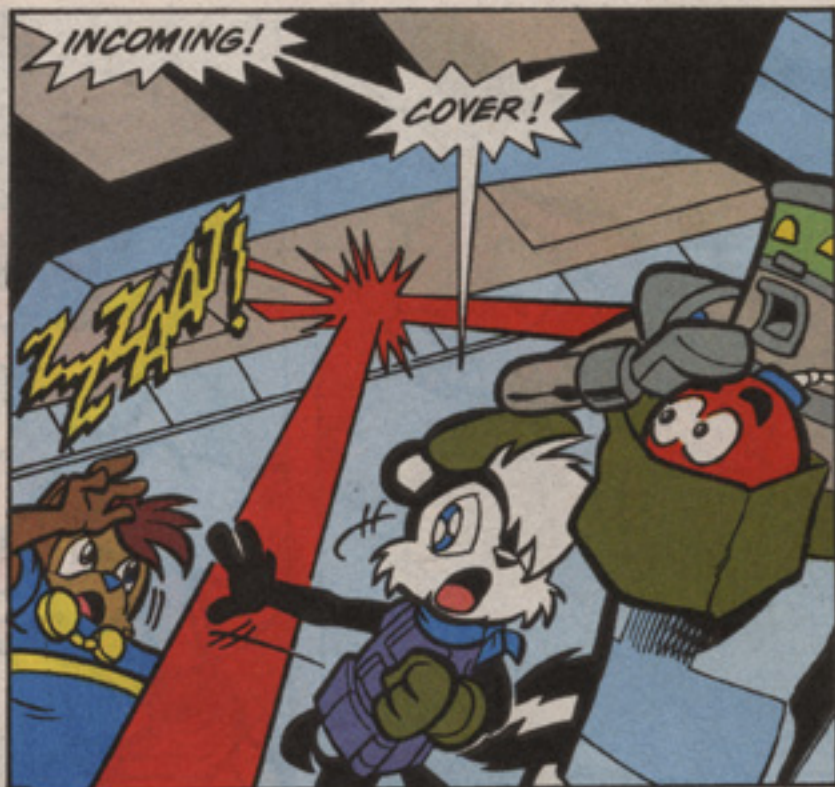
ARRGH!

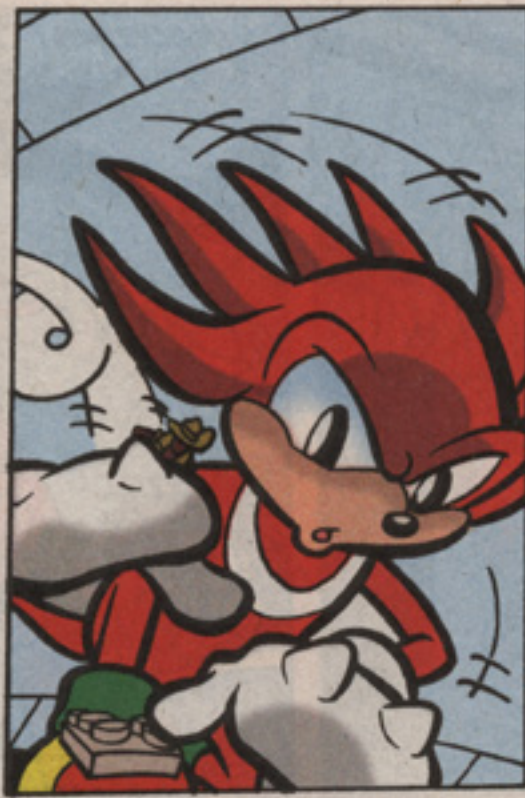
YOU'LL GO TO YOUR
GRAVE FIRST, YOU SELF-
CENTERED BRAT!











"I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU STILL HAD SOME TEAM SPIRIT!"

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN ONE OF OUR OWN TURNED AGAINST US!

I SUSPECT THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE, SABRE!

NOW THAT TOBOR IS ISOLATED--



"--LET'S CHECK TO MAKE CERTAIN NO FURTHER HARM WAS DONE!"

THIS WAY, COMMANDER!

IF WE CAN'T GO FORWARD, ANOTHER PASSAGE WILL DO!

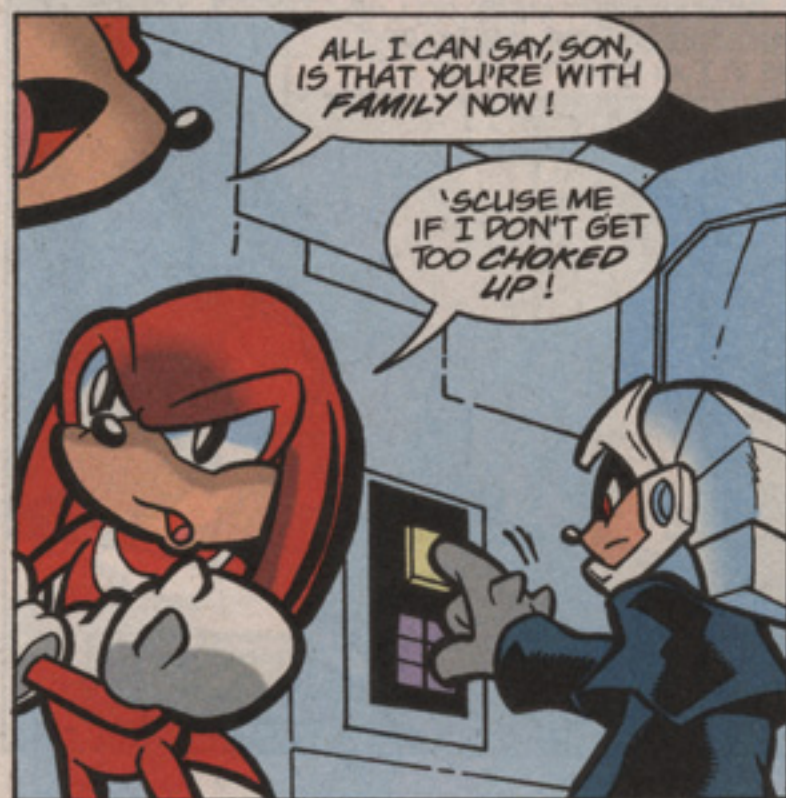
HAVEN IS LOADED WITH ALL SORTS OF HIDDEN AVENUES!



HOLD IT!

SOMEONE'S COMING!

FRIEND OR FOE?



"IT'S AN EXPRESSION FROM ONE OF THE *EARLY ECHIDNA DIALECTS*. HE PROMISES WE WILL ALL MAKE FRIENDS WITH *DEATH!*"



IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR WOULD-BE RESCUERS NEED RESCUING, LARA!

MUST YOU ALWAYS SOUND SO CONDESCENDING, LOCKE?



YOU'RE RIGHT, LARA! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!

"SO WHAT DID YOU WISH TO DISCUSS WITH ME?"



I CAME TO SEE YOU ABOUT OUR SON!

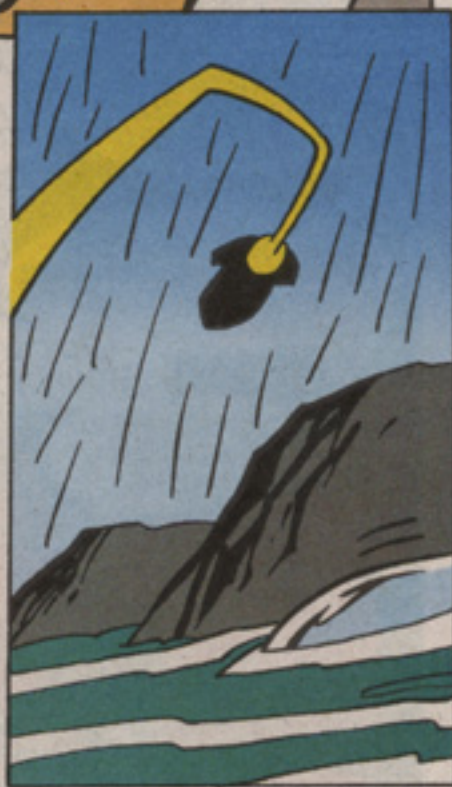
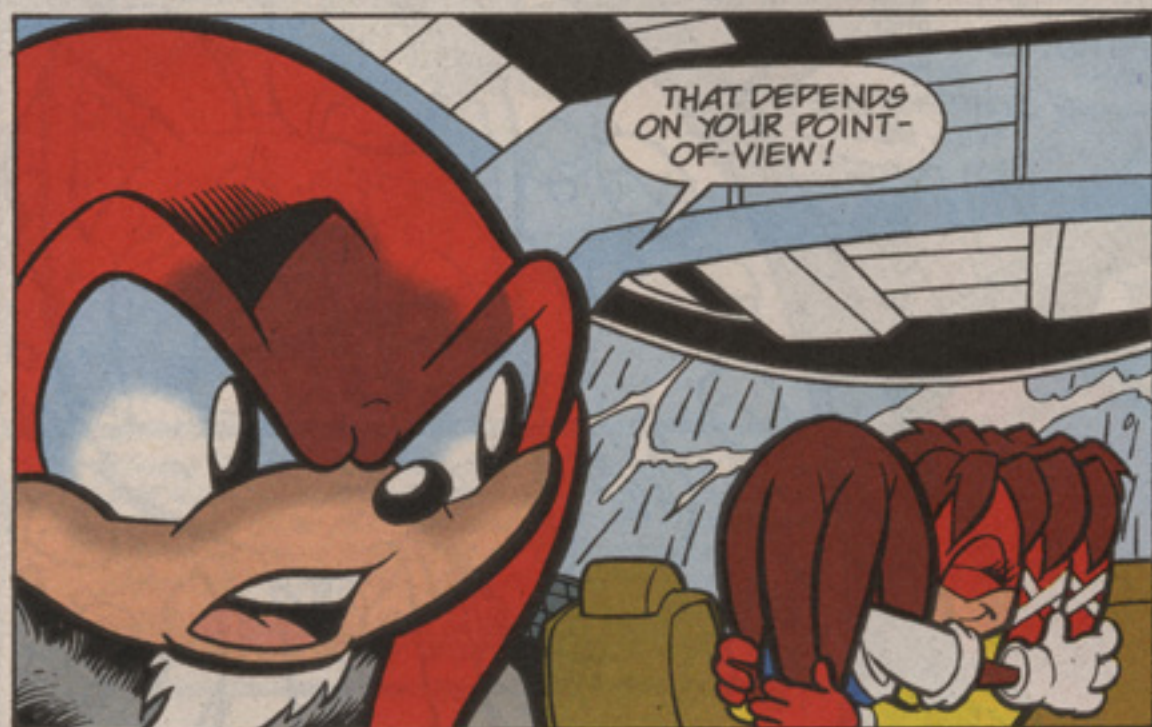
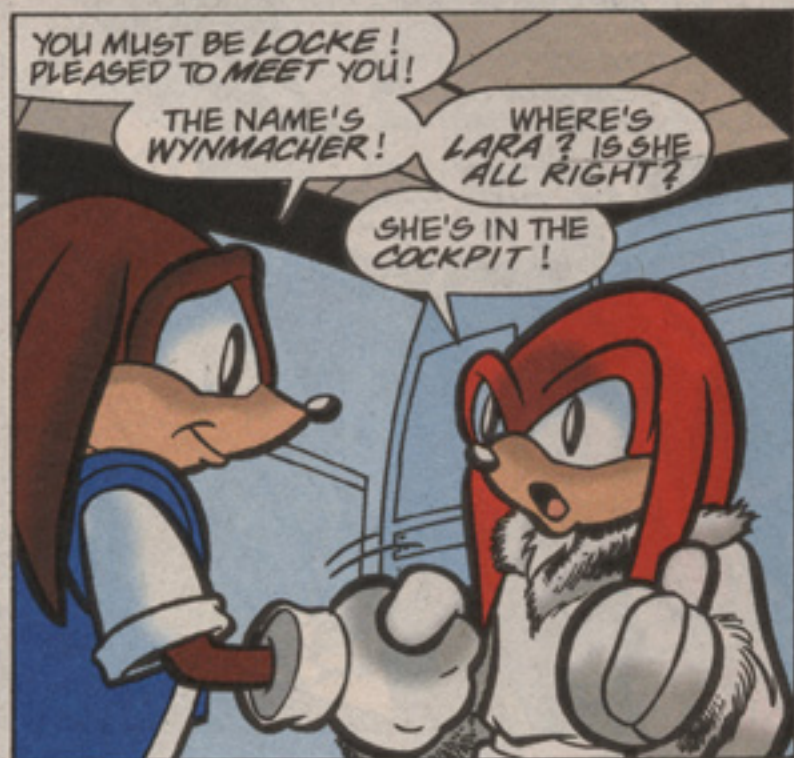
HE NEEDS A FATHER, LOCKE--

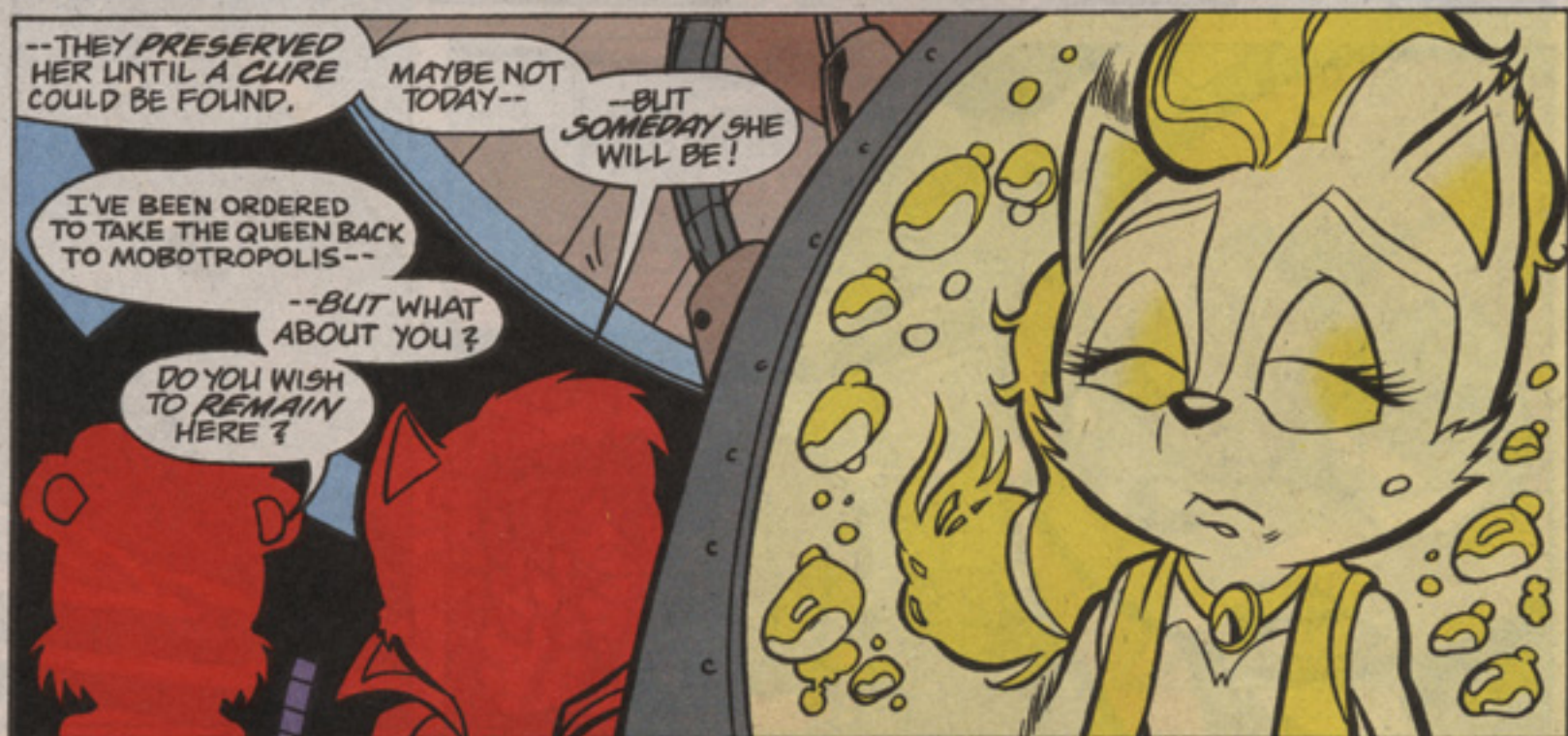
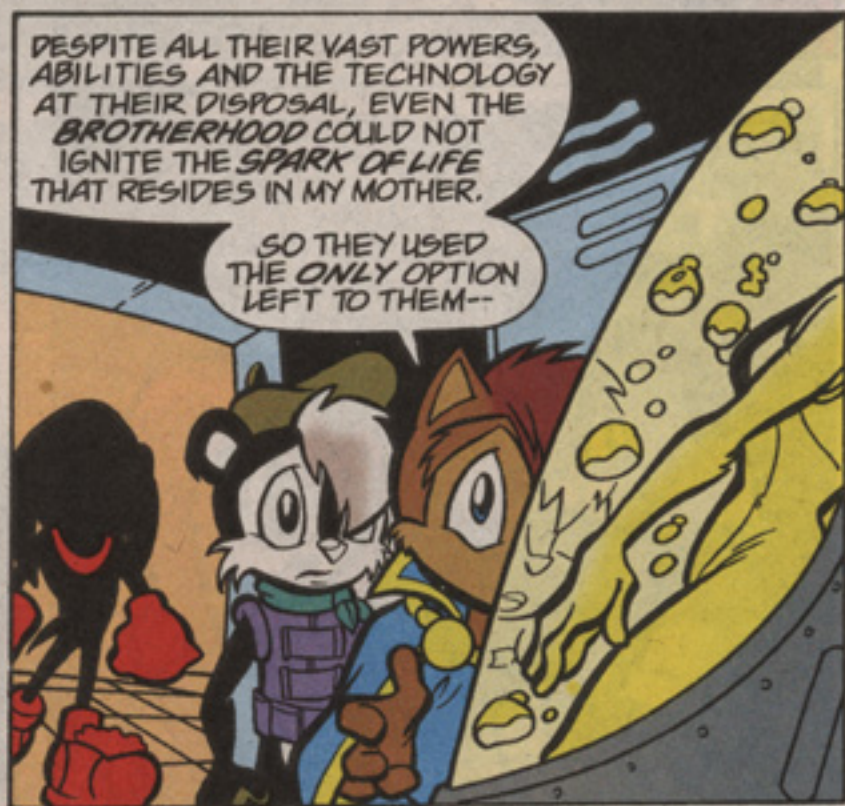
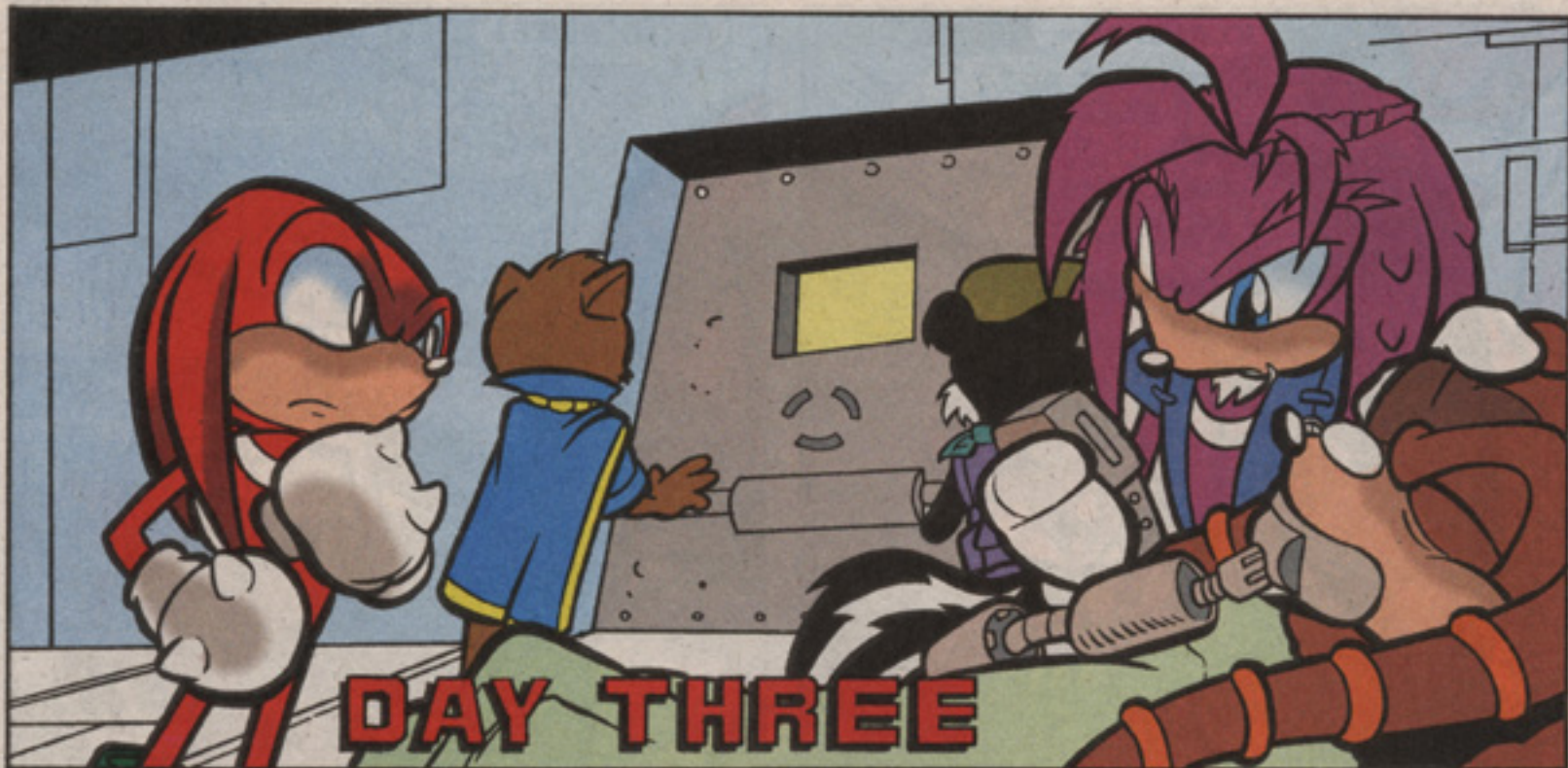
--AND I ALREADY HAVE MY HANDS FULL JUST BEING A MOTHER!

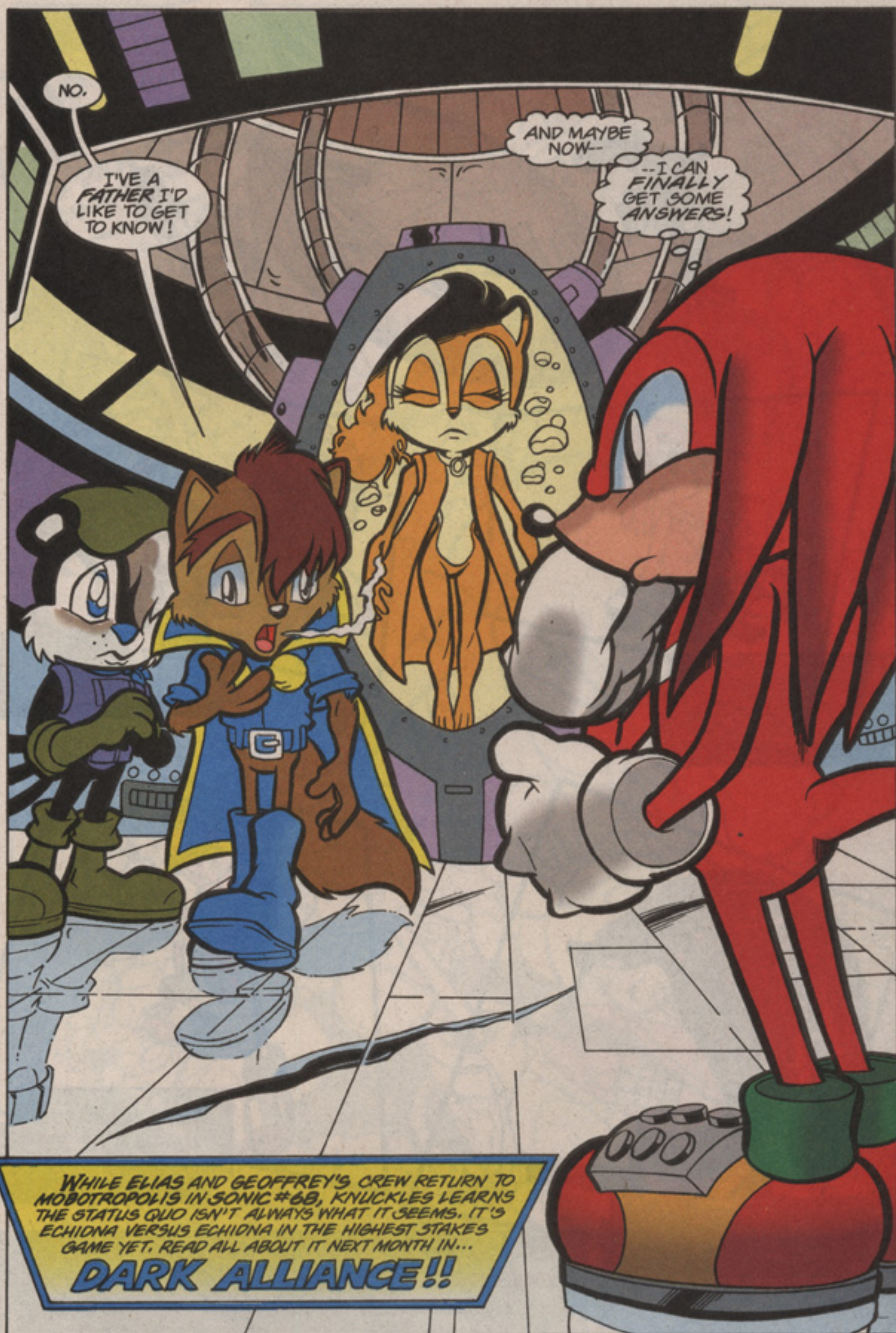
"WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, LARA? EXPLAIN THE *BIRDS AND THE BEES*? I ALREADY HAVE!"



"DID YOU, LOCKE?"







NO.

I'VE A
FATHER I'D
LIKE TO GET
TO KNOW!

AND MAYBE
NOW--

--I CAN
FINALLY
GET SOME
ANSWERS!

WHILE ELIAS AND GEOFFREY'S CREW RETURN TO MOBOTROPOLIS IN SONIC #68, KNUCKLES LEARNS THE STATUS QUO ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS. IT'S ECHIDNA VERSUS ECHIDNA IN THE HIGHEST STAKES GAME YET. READ ALL ABOUT IT NEXT MONTH IN...

DARK ALLIANCE!!

Knuckles

Fan Art



*Nicole Acevedo
New Hydepark, NY*



*Lisa Hodge
Vacaville, CA*



*Nicholas Wang Tretiak
Vancouver, BC*

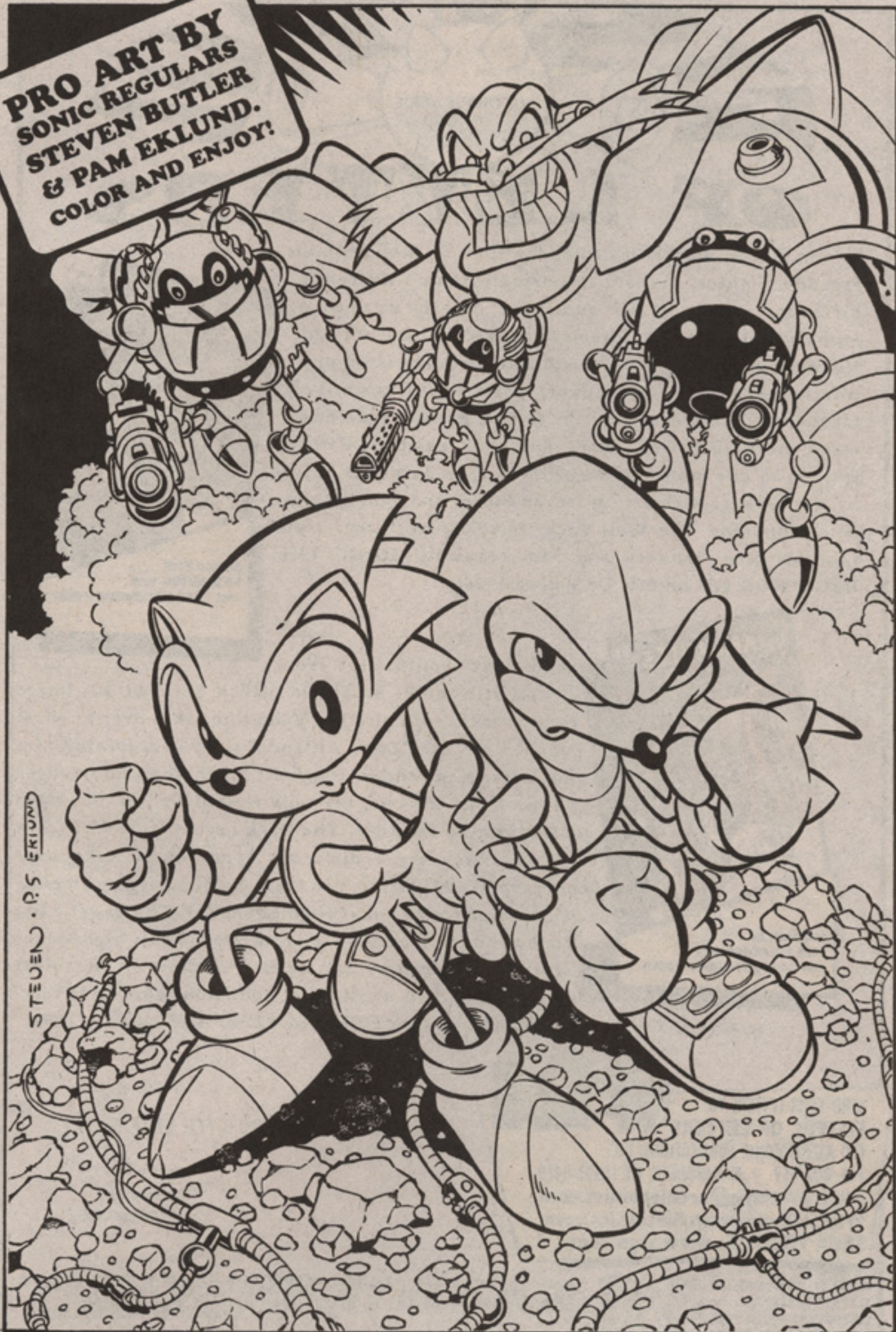


*Marc Leonforte
Morris Park, NY*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DRAWING PRINTED,
PLEASE SEND A BLACK & WHITE COPY OF YOUR ART
(NO ORIGINALS) TO: "KNUCKLES FAN ART #21"
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419

**PRO ART BY
SONIC REGULARS
STEVEN BUTLER
& PAM EKLUND.
COLOR AND ENJOY!**

STEVEN • P.S. EKLUND



FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN F. GABRIE
EDITOR

In Three Weeks: It's birthday time in Mobotropolis as The Freedom Fighters prepare to celebrate Sonic's sixteenth birthday. Sonic, Tails and Nate quietly return to Mobotropolis in an attempt to return un-noticed. However, not everything about this birthday is "happy." Another satellite over Mobotropolis activates, Snively takes charge, meteors rain on Sonic's parade, plus many, many more surprises. Don't miss this excitement-filled episode in one month as we witness "The Surprise!" Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Lupe and The Wolf Pack, Part Two of Three! 'Nuff said! By Ken Penders and Sam Maxwell! **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #68** on sale December 1998!



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #68
ON SALE DECEMBER 1998!



KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #22
ON SALE JANUARY 1999!

And next month: Hot from his artistic chores on **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7**, Image creator extraordinaire Jim Valentino takes over as guest penciler for the "Dark Alliance" story arc. Joining him and writer Ken Penders is a guest inker who's no stranger to Sonic fans: the one, the only Harvo! As you may have guessed due to the title, The Dark Legion is back! Except this time they try a different approach to take over Echidnaopolis by getting into their politics, rigging an election campaign for the next High Councilor. Things get a little hot under the collar for Knuckles in this high stakes story that features the return of one of the most requested villains of all time! You know who we're talking about, don't you? **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #22** on sale January 1999!

#21

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
FISTFUL OF LETTERS
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419
E-MAIL: jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com
SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

JUSTIN
FREDDY
GABRIE

BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE, THE EDITORS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT MESSAGES AS THEY SEE FIT.



NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!

Now it's time to discuss
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
issues #13-15: "The Chaotix
Caper"

Dear Archimedes,

You seem to be the only character in Knuckles comics that actually knows what is going on. So, I'm writing to you. I'm extremely confused about Knuckles' family tree!! I know who his mother is and his father is Locke. But, then I find out who Locke's father is and Locke's grandfather, Grandfather Hawking. But then I learn about Athair who is also his grandfather. So Athair and Hawking are both great-grandfathers of Knuckles? Who is the father of Knuckles' mother? I'm not sure if I got all of that correct. And I'm also not sure if Athair is Knuckles' mother's grandfather or what? See how confused I am. I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Brian Fawcett (age 15)

St. Louis, MO

I see how all of this could easily be confusing to you. Let me give you the full list of Knuckles' relatives up to Hawking. The father of Knuckles is Locke. Locke's father is Sabre. Sabre's father is Athair. Followed by Athair is his mother Janelle-Li, the first and only female guardian, and daughter of Thunderhawk. Thunderhawk's father was Sojourner, who was the child of Spectre. Tobor is the father of Spectre, and the son of Hawking. Well, that's the family tree in a nutshell. Hope it is clearer for you now, Brian.

Dear Fistful of letters,

You guys have done a great job on Knuckles. I love the art and the story gets better every issue. Let's talk about issue #15 now. I think I'm beginning to like Julie-Su's character very

much. Please don't let her leave. I'm really going to miss Charmy. I'm very interested in what's going to happen to him now that he's back home and has to face all the responsibilities that being a prince in the Bee Realm holds. Knuckles is beginning to show just how powerful he is. Hurry up and get him back on the Floating Island! I can't wait to see what happens when he sees his friends again and what his father will do. Just a suggestion: Get Knuckles' mom more involved in his life. He needs her. Now a question: Are you going to tell us more of Albion? I would really like to know some more. Well, it's time for me to go now. Remember, whatever happens, stay cool!

Alexandria Adrianna Cuellar
Washingtonville, NY

We will definitely take some of your suggestions seriously. I am sure that Knuckles' mother will appear again and play an important role in his future. As for more about Albion, it was discussed in issues 10-12, and if you continue reading in the future, I am sure all of your questions will be answered.

Dear Knuckles,

'Sup, Rad Red? Greetings for this month! Wow! Another jam-packed issue of Knuckles delivered in Super-Sonic time! It didn't even seem like a month had passed by and I already got my next issue of Knuckles. Charmy is a prince? Now, that's weird. I would have never thought of Charmy being one. Boy, you guys are full of surprises. What's next? Vector's really a peace-loving dude who listens to classical music when nobody is around? I'm glad to see that the rest of The Chaotix are recovering fine. Of course I knew they would, but I'm still glad that they are getting better. I sent

you all a get-well card to cheer you guys up, of course, by the time you read this you will all be better and kickin' some butt. Charmy, you have to understand that you cannot run away from your responsibilities. Besides, Prince Charmy of the Bee Realm sounds a lot better than just "Charmy the Honey-bee".

Loved the covers. Especially the middle one with Julie-Su and Constable Remington ready for action. Gotta love that! Great job, Spaz. You make your greatest admirer proud. Well, that's all the jazz for this month! Keep up the good work, and I will see you all next month.

Kathleen "Kat" D. Najera
20314 Thornlake Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90715

Well, Kat, all of The Chaotix are grateful for the "get well" card. Very thoughtful of you. They are all recovering fine as you can see in the latest issues. We are glad that you enjoy the comic so much, and you should continue reading to find out what happens to all of your favorite characters. Good luck on the rest of your mission!

**So until next
month,
stay cool!**

BONUS: The following is a funny little sketch of Knuckles in a Shadowhawk costume by Jim Valentino.

